

REMARKS

Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections of this application and consideration and entry of this paper are respectfully requested in view of the amendment and remarks herein, which place the application in condition for allowance.

Claims 1-5, 7-9 and 12-30 are currently pending in this application. Claims 1-5, 7-9, 12 and 14-16 were amended, claim 6 cancelled and claims 17-34 added, without prejudice, in order to advance prosecution and not for reasons related to patentability under 35 U.S.C. §102 or 103. The claims were rewritten in order that they comply with U.S. practice. As the scope of the originally claimed subject matter was not narrowed, the doctrine of equivalents is not affected. Support for new claims 17-30 is found throughout the specification and from the pending and cancelled claims.

No new matter is added.

Claims 1-9 and 12-16 were rejected under 35 U.S.C §112, second paragraph, as allegedly being indefinite and under 35 U.S.C §101 for allegedly reciting a use without the steps involved in the process. The rejection is respectfully traversed.

The amendments to claims 1-5, 7-9, 12 and 14-16, the cancellation of claim 6 and the addition of claims 17-34, without prejudice, have rendered the rejections moot.

Thus, reconsideration and withdrawal of the Sections 112 and 101 rejections are respectfully requested.

Pursuant to the provisions of 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.17(a) and 1.136(a), Applicants petition the Assistant Commissioner to extend the time period for Applicants to respond to the outstanding Office Action by one (1) month, i.e., up to and including May 28, 2002. A check for \$110.00 is enclosed with this Amendment. Applicants authorize the Assistant Commissioner to charge any

VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

IN THE CLAIMS:

1. (Amended) [The use of a combination of an agrochemically active compound and a carrier surrounding an active compound, to suppress antagonistic interactions in a mixture comprising an active compound surrounded by the carrier material, and at least one further agrochemcially active compound] A method for suppressing the antagonistic interactions between at least two different agrochemically active compounds in an agrochemical combination which comprises at least partially surrounding at least one of the active compounds with a carrier material.

2. (Amended) The [use as claimed in] method according to claim 1, wherein [the active compound] said agrochemically active compounds are selected from the group consisting of herbicides, fungicides, insecticides, growth regulators, safeners, molluscicides, acaricides and nematocides[, in particular herbicides, safeners, growth regulators, insecticides and fungicides].

3. (Amended) The [use as claimed in] method according to claim 2, wherein the herbicides are selected form the group consisting of ALS inhibitors[, such as, for example, sulfonylureas], hydroxybenzonitriles, [preferably bromoxynil and ioxynil,] bentazone, aryloxyalkylcarboxylic acids, [preferably MCPA, 2,4-D, CMPP, 2,4-DP, 2,4-DB,] (hetero) aryloxyaryloxyalkylcarboxylic acids, [preferably fenoxaprop-p-ethyl, dichlofop, clodinafop-propargyl, fluazifop,] HPPDO-inhibitors, [preferably mesotrione or sulfotrione,] triazines, and cyclohexanedione oximes, [preferably sethoxidim, clethodim or trialcoxidim, the growth selectors are selected from the group consisting of indolyl acetic acid and indolyl butyric acid

and auxins, the safeners are selected from the group consisting of mefenpyr-diethyl and 5,5-biphenyl-2-isoxazoline-3-carboxylic acid].

4. (Amended) The [use] method according to claim 1, wherein the carrier material is [selected from the group consisting of materials] of synthetic or natural origin and organic in [and inorganic] nature[, preferably polymers of natural and synthetic origin, wax, silicates, alumosilicates, alumina and minerals based on these materials].

5. (Amended) The [use as claimed in claim 4] method according to claim 1, wherein [the active compound is surrounded by microcapsules as carrier, preferably by microcapsules constructed of polyureas, polyurethanes, polyamides, melamine resins, gelatin, wax and/or starch] said carrier material is a microcapsule.

7. (Amended) The [use as claimed in claim 5 or 6] method according to claim 5, wherein the microcapsules are prepared by interfacial polycondensation or coacervation.

8. (Amended) [A formulation, comprising a combination as claimed in claim 1 an agrochemical compound, a carrier and least one further component from the group consisting of agrochemically active compounds, surfactants, fertilizers and adjuvants] A formulation comprising a combination comprising two different agrochemically active compounds, wherein at least one of the agrochemically active compounds is at least partially surrounded by a carrier material, and a third component selected from the group consisting of surfactants, fertilizers and adjuvants.

9. (Amended) The formulation [as claimed in] according to claim 8, comprising a combination of a herbicide, [and] a carrier [material together with] a safener and/or a growth regulator.

12. (Amended) [A method for controlling a harmful organism which comprises applying to said organism a combination according to claim 1] A method for controlling a harmful organism, which comprises applying to said harmful organism or to an environment wherein said harmful organism resides an agrochemical combination which comprises at least two different agrochemically active compounds wherein at least one of the agrochemically active compounds is at least partially surrounded by a carrier material.

14. (Amended) A method for controlling a harmful organism [which comprises applying to said organism a combination according to claim 8] comprising the step of applying a formulation according to claim 8 to said harmful organism or to an environment within which said harmful organism resides.

15. (Amended) A process for preparing a [combination as claimed in claim 1] an agrochemical composition comprising at least two agrochemical compounds and a carrier, [which comprises] comprising the step of combining the [active] agrochemical compounds [by customary processes known per se, preferably] by dissolving, stirring or mixing[,] with a suitable carrier.

16. (Amended) A process for preparing a formulation as claimed in claim 8, [which comprises] comprising the step of combining the [active] agrochemical compounds by

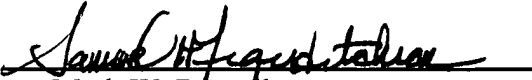
[customary processes known per se, preferably by] dissolving, stirring or mixing[,] with a suitable carrier.

additional fee for consideration of this amendment, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit
Account No. 50-0320.

Accordingly, in view of the foregoing, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections
are earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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